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Your Reference: HL74401/GK/jkl
Application No: GB 0004285.3

14 July 2000

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

Plurality of invention

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention as follows:

- a) the apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claim 1 characterised by the first and second support members, manifold, expansion cone, tubular member, first, second and third interior chambers and shoe;
- b) the method of and apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claims 2 & 3 characterised by the respective injection of first and second quantities of fluidic material below and above the expansion cone;
- c) the apparatus for and method of coupling as claimed in claims 4 & 5 characterised by coupling elements mating with slots in the first and second members;
- d) the apparatus for controlling the flow of fluidic materials within a housing as claimed in claim 6 characterised by the first to sixth passages and the throat passage;
- e) the method of controlling the flow of fluidic materials within a housing as claimed in claim 7 characterised by the blocking of the inlet passage and opening of the outlet passage;
- f) the apparatus of claim 8 characterised by the first and second tubular members, the first and second annular chambers, the annular piston, the annular sleeve, the third annular member and the inlet and outlet passages;
- g) the method of applying an axial force to a first piston as claimed in claim 9 characterised

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by the use of a second piston;

h) the apparatus for and method of radially expanding a tubular member as claimed in claims 10 & 11 characterised by the lubrication of the interface between the expansion cone and the tubular member;

i) the apparatus of claim 12 characterised by the support member, the tubular member, the expansion cone and the preload assembly;

j) the apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claim 13 characterised by the support member, the manifold, the radial expansion assembly and the coupling assembly;

k) the apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claim 14 characterised by the annular support member, the manifold, the force multiplier assembly, the expandable tubular member, the radial expansion assembly, the coupling assembly and the coupling device; and

l) the method of and apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claims 15 & 16 characterised by the the decoupling of the support member from the tubular member.

My search report relates to the first invention only. If you want any of the other inventions searched, you should file a separate Patents Form 9/77 for each invention.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **15 August 2000**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

David Pepper
Examiner



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Application N : GB 0004285.3
Claims searched: 1

Examiner: David Pepper
Date of search: 12 July 2000

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): E1F FJT, FLA

Int Cl (Ed.7): E21B

Other: Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2344606 A (Shell Int Research)	-
A	EP 0881354 A (Sofitech N.V.)	-
A	WO 98/00626 A (Shell Int Research)	-
A,E	US 6070671 A (Shell Oil Co)	-

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.